MANORAMA

TELL WIE WHY

No:95







PRIME MINISTERS



TELL ME WHY

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FROM THE HOUSE OF MAGIC POT, THE WEEK, MANORAMA YEARBOOK,
VANITHA & THE MALAYALA MANORAMA DAILY

JAI HIND

India is the largest democracy in the world. Our democracy is so powerful and vibrant that it has thrown up a diverse spectrum of personalities to lead our nation. Some of these were great statesmen, scholars and economists. Others were politicians, adept at the subtle art of diplomacy and statecraft.

Though they walked along different roads, they all had the same aim - to lead India on the path of progress.

This issue of Tell Me Why tells the inspiring story of our brilliant prime ministers.

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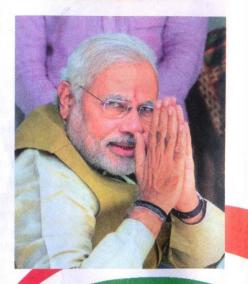
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NARENDRA MODI



Who is the present Prime Minister of India?

Narendra Damodardas Modi became India's 15th Prime Minister on 26th May 2014. He is one of the senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party or BJP, and he led his party to victory in the recently concluded general elections to the lower house of parliament or the Lok Sabha

In fact, the BJP distinguished itself by winning an outright majority in the Lok Sabha. Narendra Modi had already established a name for himself as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014. He has had a remarkable career marked by some unique achievements. He was the first Chief Minister to serve Gujarat for thirteen years, and is also the first Chief Minister from that state to become the Prime Minister of India.



Narendra Modi as a Young Boy



What was Narendra Modi's childhood like?

Narendra Modi hada hard childhood. He was born into a middle class family in Vadnagar, Gujarat in 1950, and was the third of four children.

As a child, he used to help his father Damodardas Modi to sell tea at the Vadnagar railway station. Modi went to school at Vadnagar, and loved debating and acting. The family enjoyed very



Modi with his Mother

few comforts, and the children studied by the smoky light of kerosene lamps.

Even as a boy, Narendra Modi was attracted to the ideals of the RSS, (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) and used to run errands for its members. He made tea for their senior leaders, and swept and cleaned the rooms of the RSS building.

Modi left home when he was 18. He continued with his studies however, and took an M.A. in Political Science.



Gujarat Again!

Morarji Desai, a former prime minister, was also from Gujarat. Morarji Desai was born in Bhadeli, which at that time, was a part of Bombay Presidency, which included present Maharashtra and Gujarat.



Why is Narendra Modi considered to be a good administrator?

Narendra Modi is known for his astute administrative skills, and has the reputation of being incorruptible. He is credited with turning around Gujarat's economy, and making it an attractive investment destination for industrialists.

Under his guidance, major developments took place in the field of agriculture. He helped Gujarat take important steps in the conservation of groundwater, and gave solid support to non government organizations in the development of infrastructure. At the same time, utilization of semi arid land resulted in a boom in cotton production.

Every village in Gujarat was supplied with electricity, and many big investors from India and abroad flocked to the state, giving a boost to industry.

Today, Gujarat is described as 'Vibrant Gujarat', because of the administrative reforms ushered in by Narendra Modi.



Modi and L.K. Advani



Modi's Election Campaign

Why has Modi's election campaign been described as a hi-tech one?

The marvels of modern technology were effectively used during Narendra Modi's campaign for the Lok Sabha by a team of cyber communication experts.

Ten websites were set up, and social media sites like Facebook and Twitter were utilized with maximum efficiency.

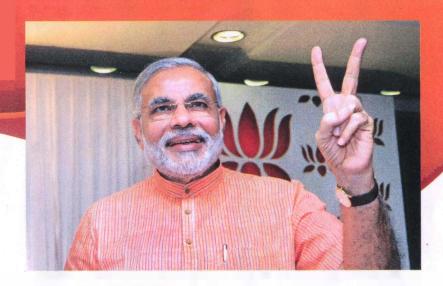
Narendra Modi's page on Facebook recorded 16 million 'Likes'- giving him the second place among world politicians. He also gained the distinction of being the sixth most followed leader on Twitter. This clever use of the social media won him many votes from the younger generation of voters.



Modi, the Poet

Modi loves writing poetry, and enjoys photography too. He has written a book titled 'Convenient Action', and also held an exhibition of his photographs.





Why have many books been written about Narendra Modi?

Narendra Modi's life has inspired many authors. His inspiring journey from being a schoolboy selling tea, to the Prime Minister of India has captured world's imagination.

'Narendra Modi: A Political Biography' has been penned by Andy Marino, and is an account of both his personal, as well as political life. Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay wrote 'Narendra Modi: The Man. The Times' while 'The Man of the

Moment: Narendra Modi' was written by M.V. Kamath and Kalindi Randeri.

Following the victory of Narendra Modi in the general elections, there has been a rise in demand for books about him. As a result, books have been published not just in English and Gujarati, but also in other languages as well. These include: 'Moditva', 'Common Man Narendra Modi', 'Namo Vani', 'Modi ka Vikasnama', 'Kahani Narendra Modi Ki' and 'Asha ka Sawera'. The latest book is titled 'ModiNomics' by Sameer Kochhar.

Our Prime Ministers 9



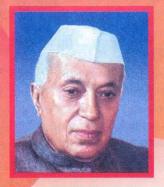
Why was Narendra Modi's swearing-in different from that of earlier prime ministers?

Narendra Modi was sworn in as the 15th prime minister of India in a spectacular ceremony in Delhi on May 26th 2014.

The guests included the heads of the neighbouring SAARC countries- Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif; Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa; Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai; Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay; Nepal Prime

Minister Sushil Koirala; Speaker of Bangladesh Shirin Chaudhury; Maldives President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, and Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius.

The venue was the forecourt of the President's residence. The ceremony capped an extraordinary rise from humble origins as a tea seller in a provincial town in Gujarat, to becoming the prime minister of the world's largest democracy.



Jawaharlal Nehru

GREAT NAMES TO REMEMBER

OUR FORMER PRIME MINISTERS



Gulzariłal Nanda



Lal Bahadur Shastri



Indira Gandhi



Morarji Desai



Chaudhary Charan Singh



Rajiv Gandhi



V.P. Singh



Chandra Shekhar



P.V. Narasimha Rao



Atal Bihari Vajpayee



H.D. Deve Gowda

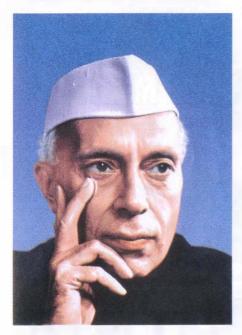


I.K. Gujral



Dr. Manmohan Singh

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



Why is Jawaharlal Nehru called the architect of modern India?

Jawaharlal Nehru is considered to be the architect of modern India.

He was one of the foremost leaders of the Indian Freedom Struggle, and the favourite disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. Later, he went on to become the first Prime Minister of India.

Nehru was admired all over the world for his visionary thinking, and played a major role in making India a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. He up a Planning set Commission, encouraged development science and technology, launched three and successive five-year plans. His policies led to a sizable growth in agricultural and industrial production.

Nehru played a major role in developina independent India's foreign policy. Not only was he a brilliant orator, a charming. and noble thinker and philosopher, he was a writer, too. He served as the prime minister from 1947 until his death in 1964. with his passing away. India mourned the death of one of her greatest sons.



Nehru as a Seva Dal Volunteer

What do we know about Nehru's early life?

awaharlal Nehru's father, Motilal Nehru, was a very wealthy barrister. He served twice as President of the Indian National Congress during the independence struggle, and the young Jawaharlal was deeply influenced by his father's ideals. He was educated at home by private tutors, and later, went to England for his higher studies.

Jawaharlal graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and then he enrolled at the Inner Temple, where he trained to be a barrister.

During this time, Nehru also started developing a sense of nationalism. Nehru returned to India in 1912, and started practising law as a barrister at the Allahabad High Court. Gradually, he involved himself in national politics.

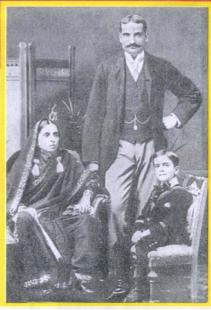


What was Jawaharlal Nehru's academic background?

Motilal Nehru decided that his son should qualify for and serve the Indian Civil Services or I.C.S. So, he sent Jawaharlal to Harrow, an elite public school in England.

Jawaharlal Nehrustudied first at Harrow, and then at Cambridge. Nehru studied natural science at Cambridge University.

He blossomed in the liberal atmosphere of the university, which encouraged a host of non-academic activities. Next, Nehru joined the Inner Temple for his legal studies in October 1910.



Jawaharlal Nehru as a Young Child with His Parents

He passed the Bar final examination in 1912.

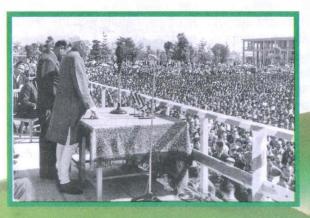
It was in England that Nehru became passionate about the Indian nationalist movement, and was convinced that the English administration wilfully discriminated against Indians. His stay in London instilled in him the dream of a free India.

What are Jawaharlal Nehru's contributions to the Freedom Struggle?

t was in 1916, that Nehru first met Mahatma Gandhi and was inspired by his belief that non-violence and civil disobedience were the righteous paths to freedom.

In the same year, Nehru actively participated in the Lucknow session of the Congress. In the course of the struggle for Swaraj, Jawaharlal Nehru was imprisoned for his active participation in the civil disobedience campaign. He was instrumental in giving the Freedom Struggle an international appeal when he attended the congress of oppressed nationalities in Brussels in Belgium in 1927.

After many socialist activities, violations, and civil movements, the British Empire in India was overthrown, and India became independent on 15th August 1947, with Jawaharlal Nehru at the helm as Prime Minister.



Nehru Addressing a Gathering

Our Prime Ministers



Why is Nehru considered to be a remarkable Prime Minister?

awaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister of India from 1947 to 1964. During this period, Nehru brought about far reaching changes in India's domestic, economic, agricultural, and social policies. He established many basic and heavy industries as well as numerous institutions of higher learning. He was the brain behind the formation of the National Defence Academy, and the Atomic Energy Commission of India.

Swearing - in Ceremony of Jawaharlal Nehru as the First Prime Minister of Free India

He advocated mixed a economy where a government controlled public sector co-existed peacefully with the private sector. In his foreign policy, Nehru initiated the concept of non-alignment or neutrality. To sum up, Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister imparted modern values and thought, stressed secularism, insisted upon the basic unity of India, and, carried India into the modern age of scientific innovation and technological progress.

What was the importance of Nehru's economic policies?

Nehru's economic policies were far reaching, and their effects are felt to this day. Nehru was a firm believer in state control over the economic sectors.

One of Nehru's key economic reforms was setting up of the Planning Commission, and the introduction of the Five Year Plan in 1951. The commission is responsible for formulating the 'Five-Year Plans' of the Indian economy.

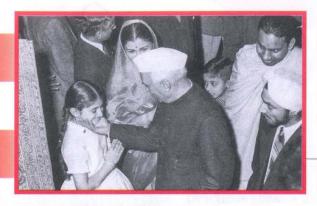
Jawaharlal Nehru concentrated his economic policies on rural development, and the Indian rural economy was allotted a lion's share of the first Five-Year Plan fund money. Land redistribution plans were also undertaken during Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure as the prime minister.



Chachaji

Jawaharlal Nehru loved children, and they, in turn, loved him too.
They called him 'chachaji' or Chacha Nehru with great affection. His birthday, 14th November, is celebrated in India as 'Children's Day'.





Nehru Greets a Little Girl

What were the social reforms that took place when Nehru was Prime Minister?

awaharlal Nehru started a process of social reforms while he was Prime Minister. He was passionate about education, and his government saw the establishment of many institutions for higher learning.



Initiatives such as the provision of free milk and meals to children to fight malnutrition were launched, along with adult education and vocational training centres, as well as technical schools.

Nehru fought the evils of the caste system, and changed the existing Indian laws to correct inequalities. He sought to promote religious harmony.

He was also an ardent supporter of women's rights, and did his best to increase the legal rights and social freedom of women in India.

What were Nehru's contributions to the field of foreign policy?

Nehru wanted India to have her own unique identity in the world, and believed in the principle of non-alignment.

This meant that India would remain impartial and independent of any commitment to either of the power blocs that existed then.

In fact, he co-founded the Non Alignment Movement of nations that remained neutral between the rival blocs of nations led by the US and the USSR. He also believed that honesty and goodwill were the key to a harmonious relationship with other nations. He tried to steer India away from violence and war, towards peace and development.

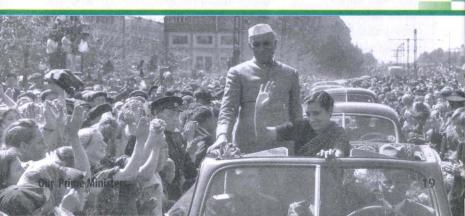
On the international scene, Nehru was a champion of peaceful co-existence, and a strong supporter of the United Nations.



Five -Year Plan

India's first Five-Year Plan was launched in1951.It was presented by Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the Prime Minister at that time.

Nehru with daughter Indira during his Moscow Visit.





Nehru and Chinese Leader Zhou Enlai



NAM

NAM stands for the Non Alignment Movement. The movement originated in 1955, and the founders were Jawaharlal Nehru from India, Josip Tito of Yugoslavia, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.

What is Panchsheel?

he term 'Panchsheel' refers to the five principles of peaceful co-existence between neighbouring countries.

The word comes from two Sanskrit words- 'panch' meaning 'five' and 'sheel' meaning 'virtue.' The first principle is to respect each other's territorial boundaries and sovereignty, and the second is to pursue a policy of non-aggression. The third principle is not to interfere in domestic affairs, while the fourth emphasizes equality and mutual benefit. The fifth and final principle is to ensure peaceful co-existence by observing all the previous principles.

Panchsheel served as a guide for the relationship between India and China. However, China failed to follow these guidelines, and attacked India in 1962, when Nehru was Prime Minister.



What are Nehru's contributions to the Non Alignment Movement?

Nehru joined with other world leaders like Tito, Nasser, and Sukarno to establish the Non Alignment Movement, or NAM.

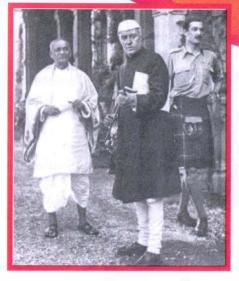
The objectives of this

movement were to help other colonies win freedom by peaceful means, and to remain impartial in the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union.

After Nehru's successful mediation in the Korean War and the Congo problem, which put an end to a long and violent struggle, his status as a statesman reached new heights.

Nehru and Kennedy





Nehru with Sardar Patel

Why was Nehru's decision of integration of state remarkable?

n 1947, India was divided into two sets of territories, the first being the territories under the control of the British Empire, and the rest being under the control of hereditary rulers, who recognized the sovereignty of the British.

There were also colonies that were under France and Portugal. The rulers of many of the princely states were not enthusiastic about merging their kingdoms into independent India or Pakistan. They insisted that they had the right to join either India

or Pakistan, or to remain independent, or to form a union of their own.

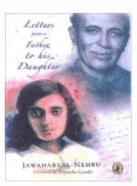
Finally though, nearly all the princely states agreed to accede to India, and become part of Nehru's dream of a new republic. Nehru refused to re-organise states on either religious or ethnic lines, but insisted that states must be formed on a linguistic basis.



Which are the popular books written by Jawaharlal Nehru?

All through his life, Jawaharlal Nehru lost no opportunity to write, whether it was drafts and resolutions for his party, essays on issues of the day, or letters to friends and family.

He was a wonderful writer, and the author of several books. His works

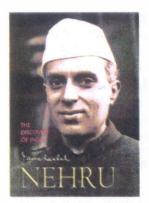


Letters from a Father to his Daughter

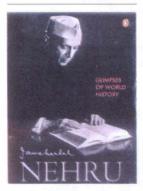
'The include Discovery of India' which is his popular most book. and 'Glimpses of History'. World aives which view on world history. His letters to his daughter Indira. written while he was in jail, were compiled

in the form of a book, known as 'Letters from a Father to His Daughter.' 'An Autobiography with Musings on Recent Events in India', is another of his books.

Many of his speeches have also been published in book form. His uniqueness as an imaginative writer with poetic vision and as an intellectual with a deep sense and knowledge of the world remains unquestioned to this day.



The Discovery of India



Glimpses of World History



Jawaharlal Nehru

Which are the major books about Jawaharlal Nehru?

Nehru's life has been the subject of many books by famous authors like Frank Moraes, Donald E. Smith, Michael Brecher, S. Gopal and M.N. Das.

Marie Stenton, wrote 'Panditji: a portrait of Jawaharlal Nehru' in 1967. It has proved to be a valuable book for students of Indian history.

K. Natwar Singh's, 'The Legacy of Nehru: A Memorial Tribute' sums up Nehru's achievements and evaluates his place in history.

There are also hundreds of books written in different regional languages about India's first prime minister.



Whence 'Nehru'?

The name Nehru comes from the Hindi word 'neher' meaning 'canal.' Jawaharlal Nehru's ancestor was allotted land near a canal by the Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiar, and hence the name.



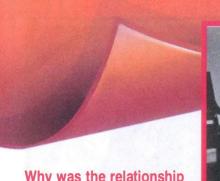
Nehru's Historic Speech 'Tryst With Destiny'

Why was Nehru considered to be a great orator?

Nehru was a renowned orator. His most famous speech is the 'Tryst With Destiny' address to the Constituent Assembly of India in New Delhi on the midnight of August 14th, 1947.

The opening sentences of this speech —"Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom" — have become truly immortal.

Nehru's pain filled speech following Gandhiji's assassination is one that brings tears to the eyes to this day. When the mood and occasion moved him, Nehru's eloquence took wing in limpid, often lyrical prose. Many of his speeches have been published in book form.



Why was the relationship between Gandhiji and Nehru unique?

Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru were two of India's greatest sons. Nehru's father Motilal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi knew each other very well, and that was how Jawaharlal Nehru became acquainted with Mahatma Gandhi.

The two of them first met at the annual meeting of the Indian National Congress in the year 1916 at Lucknow.

In Gandhiji, Nehru found an absolute leader who inspired him. He threw his, heart and soul into the freedom movement. In 1929, under the patronage



Jawaharlal Nehru with Mahatma Gandhi

of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal became the President of the Indian National Congress. Nehru gradually emerged as the paramount leader of the Indian independence movement. Although Gandhi did not officially designate Nehru his political heir until 1942, the country as early as the mid-1930s saw in Nehru, the natural successor to Gandhi.

In later years, they may have differed on some issues, but the love and respect they had for each other remained as strong as ever until Gandhiji passed away, leaving behind a shattered Nehru.

What is Gulzarilal Nanda remembered for?

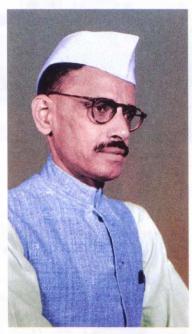
Gulzarilal Nanda was the acting Prime Minister of India twice. The first time was after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, and the second time was after Lal Bahadur Shastri passed away suddenly in 1966.

In both cases, his terms ended after the ruling Indian National Congress's parliamentary party elected a new prime minister. He will always be remembered for his honesty and simplicity- and for the fact that he came to the helm of government during two extremely sensitive situations.

When Nehru died, India was just recovering from the war with China while Lal Bahadur Shastri's death was preceded by the war with Pakistan, and Gulzarilal Nanda, an outstanding parliamentarian, steered the country efficiently and safely through the difficult times.

GULZARILAL NANDA

(Acting Prime Minister)



Gulzarilal Nanda



Gulzarilal Nanda



Why is Nanda considered to be a great parliamentarian?

Gulzarilal Nanda had a distinguished career as a parliamentarian which began when he was elected in 1937 to the Bombay Legislative Assembly.

After India's independence, in March 1950, Nanda joined the Indian Planning Commission as its vice-chairman and in September 1951, he was appointed Planning Minister in the Indian Government.

In the 1952 general elections, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bombay, and was re-elected in 1962 from Gujarat. He also served his country as Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Planning, Minister for Home Affairs and the Prime Minister.

What do we know about Gulzarilal Nanda's background?

Gulzarilal Nanda was a politician and an economist held in high regard all over India.

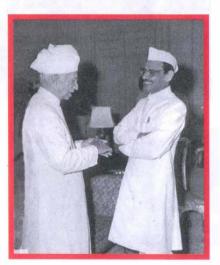
His childhood years were spent in several cities from Lahore to Amritsar and Agra to Allahabad. After completing school from Lahore, Amritsar and Agra, Gulzarilal Nanda studied problems from labour Allahabad University, and earned his research scholar degree from there. He later joined as a professor of economics, specializing in labour studies at National College under Bombay University in the year 1921.

Gulzarilal Nanda was inspired by the works of Mahatma Gandhi, and became an active member of politics and India's freedom struggle. He joined the Indian Non-Cooperation Movement against the British Raj, and was imprisoned several times by the British Raj.



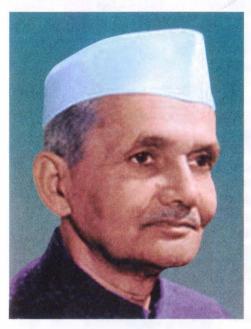
Bharat Ratna

Gulzarilal Nanda was the recipient of India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. He received this award in 1997.



Gulzarilal Nanda with Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI



Lal Bahadur Shastri

What do we know about Lal Bahadur Shastri's early life?

Shastri's parents were agriculturists. Initially, his father was a poor teacher who did not earn much by way of income. Then he became a clerk in the Revenue Office at Allahabad.

Shastri was educated at the East Central Railway Inter College in Mughalsarai and Varanasi. He graduated with a first-class degree from the Kashi Vidyapeeth in 1926, and was given the title Shastri which means 'scholar'.

The greatest influence on Lal Bahadur was Mahatma Gandhi. Lal Bahadur

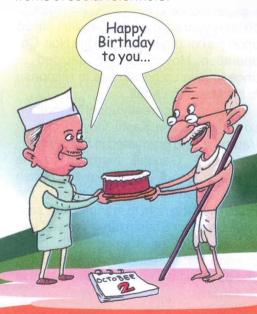
was electrified when he heard a speech by Gandhi at Varanasi. Then and there he decided to dedicate his life to the service of the country. When Mahatma Gandhi started the 'Salt Satyagraha', Lal Bahadur took a leading role in it. He was arrested, and sent to prison- and this was just the first of several times that he was thrown in jail for taking part in the civil disobedience movement.

In fact, he considered going to prison as a blessing in disguise, as he now had the time to read a number of good books and become familiar with the works of social reformers!



Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan!

It was Lal Bahadur Shastri who first coined the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' during the 22-days war with Pakistan in 1965. It has remained in the hearts of all Indians ever since then.

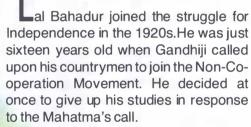


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Nehru, V.K. Krishna Menon and Shastri

What was Lal Bahadur Shastri's role in the Freedom Movement?



However, this greatly upseth is mother, so he joined the Kashi Vidya Peeth in Varanasi, and graduated in Sanskrit.

In 1930, Gandhiji marched to the beach at Dandi, and broke the British Salt Law which stated that only the British had the right to manufacture salt.

Lal Bahadur Shastri threw himself into the struggle for freedom with great passion. He led many defiant campaigns, and spent a total of almost nine years in British jails.



How did Lal Bahadur Shastri set an example as the Railway Minister?

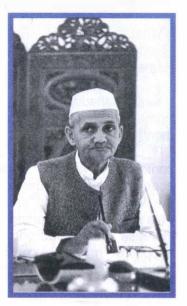
al Bahadur Shastri who shares his date of birth with Mahatma Gandhi, was a staunch follower of Gandhiji's path of truth and non-violence.

In the first general elections of the Indian Republic, the Congress was returned to power, but Shastri did not contest the elections. Nehru who admired Shastri's honesty, persuaded him to seek election to the Rajya Sabha, and appointed him the Railway Minister.

As the Minister, Shastri made relentless efforts to remove the wide disparity between the first and third class compartments.

When an accident occurred in 1956, he sent in his resignation accepting moral responsibility for the disaster. But Nehru did not accept it. Three months later, after a railway accident in Tamil Nadu, Shastri again resigned on the grounds of moral responsibility.

This time, Nehru accepted the resignation, not because he held the Railway Minister responsible in any way, but it would set an example for future ministers.



Lal Bahadur Shastri

Our Prime Ministers 33

What were Lal Bahadur Shastri's contributions as a Prime Minister?

_al Bahadur Shastri was Prime Minister for only nineteen months- from 9th June 1964 to 11th January 1966. Shastri continued Nehru's socialist economic policies, and promoted the White Revolution in India. This was a national campaign to increase the production and supply of milk. He continued Nehru's policy of non-alignment too.

Lal Bahadur Shastri Addressing a Meeting Shastri had not been in power long before he had to attend to the difficult matter of Pakistani aggression along the Rann of Kutch. Though a cease-fire under the auspices of the United Nations put a temporary halt to the fighting, the scene of conflict soon shifted to the more troubled spot of Kashmir. Lal Bahadur Shastri met force with force, and by early September, the first Indo-Pakistan war had commenced.

Though the victorious Indian army reached the outskirts of Lahore, Shastri generously agreed to withdraw Indian forces.





Shastri at a Public Function



Bharat Ratna

Lal Bahadur
Shastri was the
first person to be
awarded the
Bharat Ratna after
his death.
A memorial, Vijay
Ghat, has been
built in Delhi for
this greatman who
was the epitome of
honesty and
simplicity.

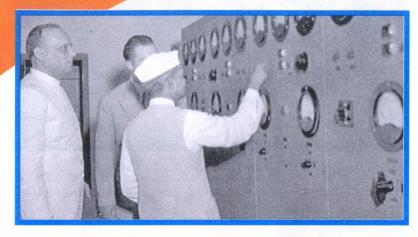
What were Lal Bahadur Shastri's contributions to foreign policy?

On the death of Nehru in 1964, Lal Bahadur Shastri was elected to succeed him as the Prime Minister of India.

Shastri continued Nehru's policy of non-alignment, but at the same time, strengthened India's ties with the Soviet Union.

Shastri's government increased the defence budget of India's armed forces, and in 1964, Shastri signed an accord with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike regarding the status of Indian Tamils in what was then called Ceylon.

However, what won him the greatest appreciation from his countrymen was his firmness in dealing with Pakistan, and the victory of the Indian armed forces in the Indo-Pak war of 1965.



Shastri switching on an Electric Power Station



What was the cause of the war between India and Pakistan in 1965?

n April 1965, fighting broke out in the Rann of Kutch, a sparsely inhabited region along the West Pakistan–India border, when Pakistan laid claim to half the Kutch peninsula.

In August, fighting spread to Kashmir and to the Punjab, and in September, militants and Pakistani soldiers began to cross the Indian border.

India retaliated, and sent its forces across the Line of Ceasefire. Indian forces scored a major victory

Tell Me Why

after a battle, and captured three important positions in the northern sector. Later in the month, the Pakistanis counterattacked.

This in turn, provoked a powerful Indian Army and they attacked the Pakistani forces fiercely. Other Indian forces captured a number of strategic positions, and eventually, took the key Haji Pir Pass, eight kilometresinside Pakistaniterritory. There were heavy casualities on both sides, but, India's victories made her a major military power in the subcontinent.

What was the Tashkent Declaration?

The Tashkent Declaration was a peace agreement reached after the Indo-Pak war of 1965. It was signed by India and Pakistan. The then Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, and the Pakistan President General Ayub Khan, signed the agreement at Tashkent on 10th January 1966.

The declaration stated that Indian and Pakistani forces would pull back to their pre-war positions, and that both countries would not interfere in each other's internal affairs. It was hoped that the declaration would bring lasting peace to

the region. Tragically, Shastri died of a massive heart attack only a few hours after signing the declaration.



Lal Bahadur Shastri

INDIRA GANDHI





Why was Indira Gandhi called the "The Iron Lady of India"?

ndira Gandhi, daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, became the Prime Minister of India, following the death of Shastri. She served fifteen years as Prime Minister, but not consecutively.

Indira Gandhi was a lady of very strong will- and this was why she was called "The Iron Lady of India". She went to war with Pakistan, and won a resounding victory that resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.

She solidly backed India's nuclear programme, and authorised the development of nuclear weapons in 1974. Another decisive step taken by Indira Gandhi was the nationalisation of banks. She was, without doubt, one of the strongest prime ministers the country has ever had.

Tell Me Why

Young Indira with Mahatma Gandhi during his fast in 1924



STAR FIRE

Woman of the Millennium

Indira Gandhi was voted as the 'Greatest Indian Prime Minister' and also named 'Woman of the Millennium' in polls conducted in 2001 and 1999 by India Today and the BBC. These were just two of the many accolades that she received.

What do we know about Indira Gandhi's childhood?

ndira Gandhi, the daughter of Jawaharlal and Kamala Nehru, was an only child, and a lonely one at that. Her father was totally involved in politics, and was away most of the time, while her mother was bedridden, and died at an early age. Indira grew up on their large family estate at Allahabad, and was mostly taught at home by private tutors.

Later, she studied at the Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan, and also in the University of Oxford. Indira was involved in the Freedom Struggle even as a child. She founded the Bal Charkha Sangh as well as the 'Vanar Sena' of children to help the Congress party during the Non-Cooperation Movement.



Indira Gandhi with Jacqueline, wife of US President John F. Kennedy, in 1962

When did Indira Gandhi's political career begin?

Politics was in Indira Gandhi's blood. Even as a child, she was exposed to the world of politics through both her father and grandfather. She took an active part in the Freedom Struggle, and even went to jail. She was married to Feroze Gandhi, who was an eminent parliamentarian.

After India won independence, Indira Gandhi managed the official residence of her father, and accompanied him on his foreign trips. She was elected as the President of the Congress in 1959.

In 1964, the year of her father's death. Indira Gandhi was elected to Parliament, and she was the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in the government of Lal Bahadur Shastri. When Shastri died unexpectedly of a heart Indira Gandhi attack. succeeded him the as Prime Minister.



Records

South Asia boasts of having elected the world's first woman Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, as well as the world's longest serving woman Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi of India.

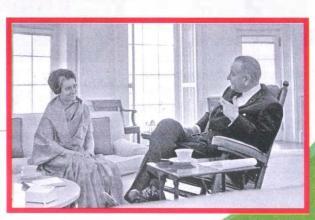
Why was Indira Gandhi's post of Information and Broadcasting Minister important?

Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri appointed Indira Gandhi as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, which is the fourth highest-ranking position in the Cabinet.

This was an important post, because radio and television were playing an increasingly important role in spreading information, as well as in educating the illiterate. The print media too was growing more powerful.

Indira Gandhi's dynamism and drive made her tenure a success, but she held the post only for two years, till Lal Bahadur Shastri's death.

Indira Gandhi meeting US President Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1966.



Why was Indira's first term as Prime Minister a stormy one?

Lal Bahadur Shastri passed awav suddenly in 1966. the Congress Party went into turmoil. There were two factions- the socialists who were led by Indira Gandhi and the conservatives who were led by Morarji Desai. As a result of this, the party fared badly in the elections that followed, losing as many as 60 seats.

The consequence of this poor performance was that Indira Gandhi was forced to accommodate Morarji Desai as Deputy Prime Minister of India and Minister of Finance.

However, the troubles within the party continued, and in 1969, the Indian National Congress formally split into two. For the next two years, Indira Gandhi had to depend on the support of the Socialist and Communist parties to get laws passed.



Indira Gandhi and the US President Richard Nixon in 1971

42 Tell Me Why

What was Indira Gandhi's foreign policy?

ndira Gandhi was well equipped to deal with foreign policy, for as Nehru's daughter, she had the rare privilege of being constantly exposed to the outside world.

She dreamt of making India a global power, and signed treaties with the USSR that strengthened India's military might.

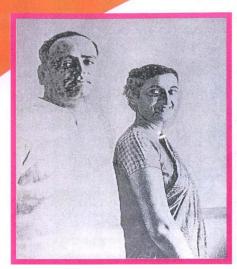
Indira Gandhi did not hesitate to send in the Indian Army to help East Pakistan gain its independence, and she also openly supported the liberation struggles of several African nations.

Following Nehru's traditions, she championed the cause of international peace, disarmament, anticolonialism and anti-racialism. She used the platforms of the Commonwealth, NAM and UN effectively not only to preserve the rich heritage of Nehru, but also to make her own contributions.



Commemorative stamp issued by the Soviet Union in 1984





Indira Gandhi with Feroze Gandhi-A Portrait



Father and Daughter

Indira Gandhi was awarded the nation's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1971. Her father, Jawaharlal Nehru was awarded this honour in 1955.

What was the Green Revolution?

ndia was on the brink of famine in the early 1960s. The government therefore, launched special packages to improve food production, and this movement was termed the Green Revolution. In India the Green Revolution was spearheaded by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan.

The Green Revolution encouraged farmers to use new varieties of seeds as well as chemical fertilizers to increase yields. The Green Revolution proved to be a great success.

In the 1960s, rice yields in India were about two tonnes per hectare- and by the mid-1990s they had risen to six tonnes per hectare.

As a result, India became one of the world's most successful rice producers, and is now a major exporter of rice.



Indira Gandhi with singer Lata Mangeshkar

What administrative changes did Indira Gandhi bring about?

Six new states were born during Indira Gandhi's term as Prime Minister. They were Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, and Sikkim. In addition, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were established as Union Territories. It was in 1966 that the state of Punjab was divided, with the Hindi speaking southern half of Punjab becoming the new state of Haryana, while the Pahari speaking hilly areas of the north east became a part of Himachal Pradesh. The city of Chandigarh, which is on the border between Punjab and Haryana, was declared a Union Territory, and the common capital of both states. The other states were established in 1971, 1972, and 1975.



Nehru with Indira Gandhi

How did Indira Gandhi handle the language controversy?

he Constitution of India had stated that by 1965, Hindi was to become the official language of the country. This provision created a lot of resentment among the non-Hindi speaking states, especially in South India.

In 1967, Indira Gandhi solved the crisis with a Constitutional Amendment that guaranteed the use of both Hindi and English as official languages. This bilingual approach soothed the fears of the non- Hindi speaking states that Hindi would be forced on them, and their own mother tongues would be given less importance.

It also gave a boost to Indira Gandhi's popularity in the Southern states, and established her reputation as a leader who would safeguard their interests too.

Hindi , English Bhai , Bhai...







Why was the nationalisation of banks by Indira Gandhi an important step?

Banking is one of the most essential and important activities in one's life, as it deals with cash, and cash transactions.

Before Indira Gandhi came to power, most banks in India were owned and operated privately. Their customers were mainly from the middle and upper classes, and most of the poorer people in the country were not aware of how banks could help them.

In 1969, Indira Gandhi took an important step when she nationalised fourteen major commercial banks. As a result, a much larger area was covered, and the number of branches rose from 8200 to 62000.

Furthermore, the nationalisation of banks saw investments in small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural sector increase, while at the same time it encouraged the poorer sections of society to save more.



What was one of the important results of the war against Pakistan?

After the 1971 war against Pakistan, India faced an oil crisis. During the war, many oil companies that were foreign- owned refused to supply fuel to the Indian Navy and Air Force.

Indira Gandhi tackled the situation by nationalising the oil companies. With this, the Indian Oil Corporation or IOC, the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation or HPCL, and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation or BPCL were formed.

Indira Gandhi Congratulating Military Chiefs after the Bangladesh War

The oil companies were instructed to keep a minimum stock level of oil, to be supplied to the military at the time of need. Indira Gandhi also nationalised the coal, steel, copper, refining, cotton textiles, and insurance industries.

The aim of this move was to protect employment and secure the interest of the organised labour. Thus it can be said that during her term as Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi brought about a radical change in the country's economic policies.



Indira Gandhi with her sons Sanjay and Rajiv.



Long Term

Indira Gandhi was
Prime Minister from
1966 to 1977 and then
again from1980 to 1984.
This meant that she
was Prime Minister for
15 years- a very long
time indeed.

What was the cause of the Indo-Pak War of 1971?

ever since partition, the people of East Pakistan, now known as Bangladesh, felt that West Pakistan was ignoring them, despite the fact that their population was more. This led to a revolution in East Pakistan, which announced its independence from Pakistan.

As a result, there was a bloody confrontation between the Pakistan Army, and the people of East Pakistan.

As Pakistan realised that it would be impossible for it to retain control over East Pakistan, it decided to compensate the loss by invading Indian territory.



Indira Gandhi at Pokhran, site of Nuclear Blast in 1974

Pakistan resorted to pre-emptive strikes on Indian air bases in the Western and Northern sectors on December 3rd, 1971, resulting in a full scale war.

Indian armed forces repulsed persistent Pakistani attempts to push into Indian territory. The Indian army also inflicted a crushing defeat on Pakistan in Sindh and Lahore sectors. The Pakistan Navy and Karachi port were paralyzed after Indian Navy surrounded it.

In the Eastern sector, the Pakistan army surrendered to India's might, and the Indian army took more than 90,000 Pakistani troops as prisoners of war. Lasting just 13 days, the Indo-Pak War of 1971 is considered to be one of the shortest wars in history, and it heralded the birth of a new nation- Bangladesh.



In Memoriam

In 1985, on the anniversary of Indira Gandhi's death, the Indian National Congress established the annual Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration, as a tribute to her memory.

Why did India's nuclear programme take great strides during Indira Gandhi's time?

ndira Gandhi was a strong supporter of India's nuclear programme. She believed that nuclear power held the key to India's stability and security.

She was the first Prime Minister to give permission for a nuclear test. While touring the Bhabha Atomic Research Center on 7th September 1972, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi gave verbal authorisation to the scientists there to manufacture the nuclear device they had designed, and prepare it for a test.

On 18th May 1974, India successfully conducted an underground nuclear test, unofficially code named as 'Smiling Buddha', near the desert village of Pokhran in Rajasthan. The success of the test stunned the world, but Indira Gandhi emphasized that it was conducted only for peaceful purposes- mainly for industrial and scientific use.



Rajiv Gandhi at Indira Gandhi's Samadhi.



When did Indira Gandhi declare a state of emergency?

n 1972, Indira Gandhi's party swept to victory in the national parliamentary elections based on the defeat of Pakistan, and the slogan of Garibi Hatao, or 'Eradicate Poverty.' Her opponent in the election, Raj Narain, charged her with corruption and electoral malpractice.

In June of 1975, the High Court of Allahabad ruled in favour of Raj Narain. Indira Gandhi, however, refused to step down from Prime Ministership, despite wide-spread unrest following the verdict. Instead, she had the President declare a state of emergency in India. During the Emergency, the police were given powers to impose curfews and civilian freedomwas limited. Indira Gandhi arrested, and jailed political activists.

The state of emergency ended when Indira Gandhi called new elections in March, 1977. In that election, the Congress Party and Indira Gandhi were defeated.

What was Operation Blue Star?

Operation Blue Star was a military operation ordered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on June 3rd 1984.

The operation was launched in response to a deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab. Sikh militants, who were demanding a separate state of their own, were amassing weapons in the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

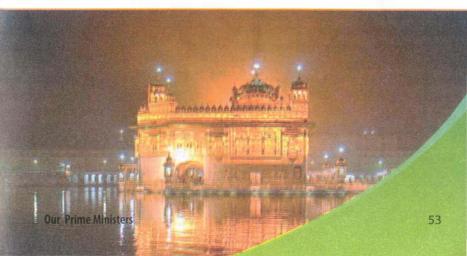
The operation was carried out by the army with tanks and armoured vehicles to flush out the militants. The entire operation lasted ten days. It started on June 3rd, 1984 and ended on June 8th, 1984. Though Operation Blue Star was a success, it created a lot of controversy and the government came in for a lot of criticism for the manner in which it was carried out.



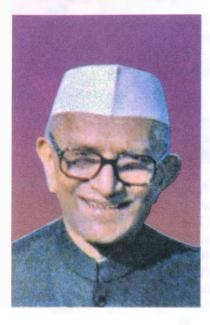
Only One!

Only one Prime
Minister in modern
Indian history has
declared a State of
Emergency due to
political reasons.
She was Indira
Gandhi.

Golden Temple at Amritsar



MORARJI DESAI



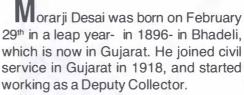
How did Morarji Desai become Prime Minister of India?

Morarji Desai was the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India. He had played an active role in India's Freedom Struggle, and had even gone to iail for this noble cause. He was a member of the Congress Party, and in 1967, Desai joined Indira Gandhi's cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister in charge of Finance. However, after the split in the Congress Party, he parted ways with Indira Gandhi. Morarii Desai led a coalition of different parties called the Janata Party to victory in the elections of 1977.

The Janata Party consisted of political leaders and activists of various political parties who had been united in opposing the state of emergency.

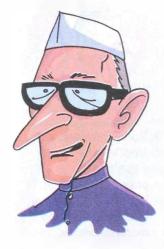
After the Janata Party's landslide victory, Morarji Desai became Prime Minister, and headed the government from 24th March 1977 to 15th July 1979.

What do we know of Morarji Desai's early life?



However, he left his job under the British in 1924 to join the Civil Disobedience Movement. For this, he was thrown into prison several times. During the Freedom Struggle, Morarji Desai took active participation in Satyagraha under Mahatma Gandhi.

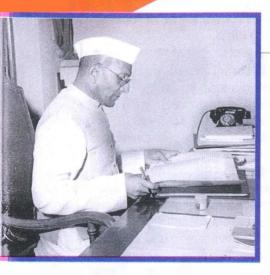
Desai became a member of the All India Congress Committee in 1931, and rose to the position of Secretary of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee until 1937. When the first Congress Government was set up in Bombay province in 1937, Morarji Desai became the minister of Revenue, Agriculture, Forest, and Co-operatives, under B.G. Kher. After Independence, he was



Nishan-E- Pakistan

Morarji Desai is the only Indian national to be conferred with Pakistan's highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Pakistan. He was awarded this honour in 1990.





Morarji Desai in his office

appointed as the Chief Minister of Bombay State. In 1956, he became the Minister of Commerce and Industry- and later, the Finance Minister, in the Union Government.

Desai was a devoted Gandhian, but he opposed the views of Jawaharlal Nehru. He was regarded as a strong contender for the next Indian Prime Minister post due to his increasing popularity in Congress Party. However, inthe 1964 elections after Nehru's death, Lal Bahadur Shastri came into power. Shastri's death in 1966 made Morarji Desai once again a contender for the post of Prime Minister, but lost to Indira Gandhi.



Great Gandhian

Moraji Desai was a strict vegetarian. He was also a passionate believer in Mahatma Gandhi's principles, and high moral standards.

56 Tell Me Why

What were some of the steps taken by Morarji Desai as Prime Minister?

The first thing Morarji Desai did as Prime Minister was to withdraw the state of emergency.

Under his leadership, the government cancelled some of the legislations passed during Emergency and thereafter, made it difficult for any other government to impose emergency in the future. The Minister of Railways took back the railway employees who had been dismissed after the May 1974 strike.

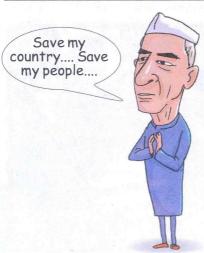
The Desai government also proceeded to establish enquiry commissions to investigate allegations of corruption and human rights violations during Indira Gandhi's tenure. As a Prime Minister, Morarji Desai's primary achievements were of improving relations with Pakistan, and restoring political relations with China, after the 1962 war.

Morarji Desai with US President John F. Kennedy.



CHARAN SINGH





How did Chaudhary Charan Singh become Prime Minister?

Chaudhary Charan Singh was the Deputy Prime Minister in Morarji Desai's government. He was also the leader of the Bharatiya Lok Dal, which was a major player of the Janata coalition.

His party withdrew support to Morarji Desai's government, and was supported in this move by the Congress Party led by Indira Gandhi. Morarji Desai was thus forced to step down, and Charan Singh became the Prime Minister.

However, he could be the Prime Minister for just 24 days, because Indira Gandhi withdrew her support. Charan Singh holds the record of being the only Prime Minister of India who did not face the Lok Sabha even for a single day. Fresh elections were held six months later, and Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister again.

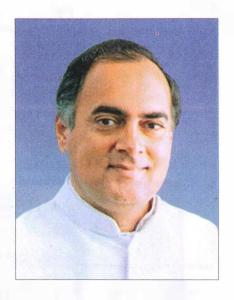
RAJIV GANDHI

When did Rajiv Gandhi become Prime Minister?

Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister under tragic circumstances. His mother, Indira Gandhi, who was the Prime Minister, was assassinated on 31st October, 1984.

Rajiv was sworn in as Prime Minister that same day and was elected leader of the Congress Party a few days later. Soon after he took charge, he asked the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha which had completed its five-year term, and hold fresh elections. In that election, the Congress captured a record 401 seats out of 508.

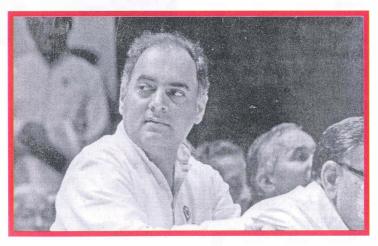
Rajiv was once again sworn in as Prime Minister of the nation. At 40, Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India, perhaps even one of the youngest elected heads of government in the world.



What do we know about Rajiv Gandhi's childhood?

Rajiv Gandhi's childhood was very different from that of ordinary children. He was just three when India became independent, and his grandfather became Prime Minister. His parents moved to New Delhi from Lucknow. His father, Feroze Gandhi, became an M.P.

Rajiv Gandhi spent his early childhood with his grandfather at Teen Murti Bhavan,



where Indira Gandhi served as the Prime Minister's hostess. He studied at Welham Boys' School in Dehradun, and then went on to the Doon School.

Later, he went to London and studied Mechanical Engineering at Cambridge University.

60 Tell Me Why

Rajiv Gandhi greeting President Giani Zail Singh on his birthday at Rashtrapati Bhavan





Why was Rajiv Gandhi's entrance into politics a surprise for many?

Politics as a career had never interested Rajiv Gandhi. According to his classmates, his bookshelves were lined with volumes on science and engineering, not works on philosophy, politics or history.

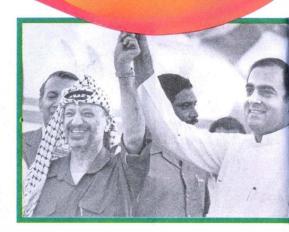
It was his brother Sanjay's death in an air crash in 1980 that more or less pushed Rajiv into politics. There was a great deal of pressure on him to help his mother, who was at that time, facing many internal and external challenges. He resisted these pressures at

first, but later gave in.

He won the by-election to the Parliament, caused by his brother's death, from Amethi in U.P. He soon became the President of the Indian Youth Congress.

In November 1982. when India hosted the Asian Games, Rajiv Gandhi was entrusted with the task of getting all the work completed on time, and ensuring that the games themselves were conducted without any flaws. He fulfilled this difficult task with quiet efficiency and smooth coordination.

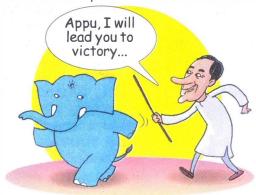
At the same time, as General Secretary of the Congress, streamlining started energizing and the party organizationstrengths and his became evident when he had to face great challenges later on in life.



Rajiv Gandhi with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat

Why were Rajiv Gandhi's economic policies significant?

Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister for only seven years, but during that time, his innovative economic policies left an indelible stamp on India.



His economic policies were in fact, different from those of Indira Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. He decided to improve India's relationship with the US, and as a result, expanded the economic and scientific cooperation with it.

His introductory measures to reduce the 'red tapism' and allow business house to set up their establishments was remarkable.



Rajiv Gandhi Welcomes Nelson Mandela in New Delhi.

In 1986, Rajiv Gandhi announced a 'National Education Policy' to modernize and expand higher education programmes across India. He also brought about revolution in the field of information technology and telecommunications, and extended these services to rural areas. His policies allowed businesses and individuals to import without bureaucratic restrictions.

These were some very significant changes that were brought about by his government.



nated in 1991. He was given

the Bharat Ratna Award

posthumously.



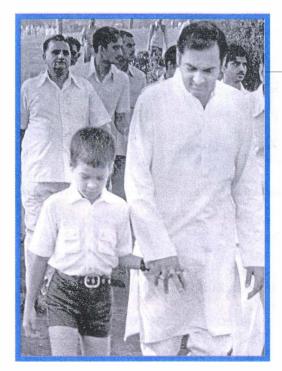
What were Rajiv Gandhi's foreign policies?

Rajiv Gandhi improved India's ties with the USA, though he maintained cordial relationship with the USSR too.

Almost within six months of becoming the Prime Minister, Gandhi paid a visit to the US. He went to Beijing in 1988. An Indian Prime Minister was visiting China after 34 years, and his visit was a major event in Indo-China relations.

Then, in July 1989, Gandhi went to Moscow too to strengthen ties with the USSR. He took steps to improve relations with Pakistan, but at the same, time was not in favour of ignoring cross border terrorism.

RajivGandhiwassupportive of the process of development in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives. Sending an Indian Peace Keeping Force to tackle the turmoil in Sri Lanka was a decision that required a lot of courage- and it invited a lot of criticism as well.



Rajiv Gandhi with Young Rahul

Sri When the Lankan President Jayawardene J.R. requested Raiiv Gandhi to send the IPKF to Sri Lanka under the terms of the agreement, Rajiv Gandhi did so -especially as refugees were pouring into India, mainly Tamil Nadu, to escape from the conflict.

The IPKF finally withdrew from Sri Lanka in 1990, on the request of the new President Premadasa, but the turmoil in Sri Lanka continued for some more years.

What was the role of the Indian Peace-keeping Force, in Sri Lanka?

The IPKF was a military unit that was formed under the terms of the India-Sri Lanka Accord signed between India and Sri Lanka in 1987.

Its goal was to end the Sri Lankan Civil War between militant Sri Lankan Tamil nationalists such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, also known as the LTTE, and the Sri Lankan army.



Which were the major awards instituted in the memory of Rajiv Gandhi?

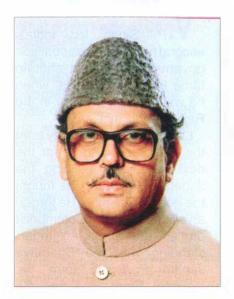
Rajiv Gandhi with Gorbachev

Rajiv Gandhi's tragic death in a bomb blast at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu on 21st May 1991 left India shocked.

To honour his memory, several awards were instituted in his name. The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award was instituted in 1991-92. It is India's highest honour, given for achievement in sports. It is awarded every year for outstanding sporting performance.

The Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award, instituted by the Indian National Congress Party in 1992, is another award given for outstanding contribution towards promotion of communal harmony, national integration and peace. It is given on Rajiv Gandhi's birthday every year- August 20th, and is a tribute to the late Prime Minister's contributions towards promoting peace and harmony.

V.P. SINGH



When did V.P. Singh become Prime Minister?

Vishwanath Pratap Singh was a politician, and the principal founder, of the Janata Dal, which was a merger of three small opposition parties. He then formed a larger opposition coalition called the National Front, which contested the parliamentary elections in November 1989.

The National Front was able to form a coalition government after the election, in alliance with two other parties, and V.P. Singh became the Prime Minister. His tenure was a very short one- from 1989 to 1990. After the state legislative elections in March 1990, Singh's governing coalition achieved control of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

However, the coalition that he headed was soon split by disputes. Singh resigned on November 10th, 1990, after losing the no confidence motion in the Lok Sabha.



V.P. Singh with Mother Teresa



What were the landmarks of V.P. Singh's government?

V
■P. Singh led India's second non-Congress coalition government. He first shot to fame in the mid-1980s, when he was finance minister in the Rajiv Gandhi ministry.

Later, Singh broke away from the Congress, and spent the next few years building the Janata Dal. In 1989, he fought the general election. He forged an alliance with the Communist parties, and struck an understanding with the Bharatiya Janata Party to form the National Front- and became the Prime Minister of India.

He ended Indian army's operation in Sri Lanka and tried implement the Mandal Commission's recommendations that ensured reservation to students from backward communities in education and public sector jobs. decision led to protests India. Later, BJP northern withdrew from the coalition. Singh had to face a no confidence motion in the Lok Sabha. which he lost.

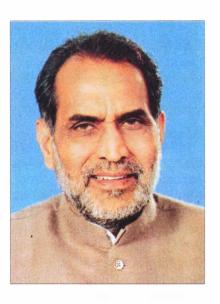
CHANDRA SHEKHAR

What do we know of Chandra Shekhar's early life?

Chandra Shekhar was sworn in as Prime Minister of India on 10th November 1990. He was attracted to politics from his student days, and was known as a fire-brand revolutionary. After his studies, he joined the Socialist Movement. In 1962, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha.

Chandra Shekhar joined the Indian National Congress in January 1965. In 1967 he was elected General Secretary of the Congress parliamentary party. He came to be known as a 'Young Turk'. Chandra Shekhar has always stood against politics of personalities, and has favoured politics of ideology. He criticised the activities carried out by Indira Gandhi.

This led to the split of Congress Party in 1975 for which he was even arrested during the Emergency and imprisoned.



Why was Chandra Shekhar Prime Minister only for a very short while?

After Chandra Shekhar left the Congress Party, he joined the Janata Party and became the president of the party in 1977. The same year, he was elected to the Lok Sabha.

As the president of Janata Party, he undertook a nationwide 'Padayatra', from Kanyakumari to Raj Ghat in New Delhi in 1983. This gained him national support. When the National Front Government collapsed in November 1990, Chandra Shekhar was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on November 10th, 1990 with Congress support.

However, this relationship survived for just a few days. Thus, on March 6th, 1991, he resigned in a televised address. But he was asked by the then President to be a caretaker until the tenth Lok Sabha elections. He quit from his post on June 21st, 1991 making way for P.V. Narasimha Rao.



Books

Chandra Shekhar was the author of two books. They were 'My Jail Diary,' and 'Dynamics of Social Change.'



P.V. NARASIMHA RAO

What was significant about Narasimha Rao's tenure as Prime Minister?

P.V. Narasimha Rao was the first Prime Minister from South India. He was also the first person from the Congress Party outside the Nehru family to serve as PM for a full five years. When he became the prime minister, India was facing difficult times. The solution was to open up the economy.

Manmohan Singh, renowned economic professor was invited by Rao to form a committee. Within a few months, the economy began to recover. A significant part of the public sector was privatised, rai was abolished. license leading to entrepreneurship and competition, state control and red tape was reduced, and policies on foreign investments were modified to allow for more investments. These reforms were broadly termed 'economic liberalisation.'



What do we know of Narasimha Rao's early life?

Narasimha Rao grew up in the Hyderabad state under Nizam rule and completed a Master's degree in law. By 1940s, when the Freedom Struggle was at its peak in the State of Hyderabad, Rao trained himself as a guerrilla fighter to revolt against the Nizam, and risked his life in the process. Luckily, he and his guerrilla team survivedandafterindependence, joined politics full time.

By the early 1970s, he was identified by Indira Gandhi for his political acumen and was requested to carry out the Land Reform Act, which he efficiently- and in the process, gave up most of his own inherited estate as well. Narasimha Rao was fluent in many languages, and well versed in different fields related to economics, law. history, politics and arts. In fact, Narasimha Rao was riahtly called the 'scholar among politicians'.





Narasimha Rao

How did Narasimha Rao become Prime Minister of India?

Narasimha Rao joined politics as a member of the Indian National Congress. Overthe nextfew decades, he rose up the political ladder to reach the national level.

He served as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Narasimha Rao rose to national prominence for his handling of several diverse portfolios like Defence and Foreign Affairs, in the cabinets of both Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. However, by the late 1980s, he had almost retired from politics. The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 made his second run.

In 1991, Narasimha Rao became the Prime Minister. He had won from Nandyal with a victory margin of a record five lakh votes and his win was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.

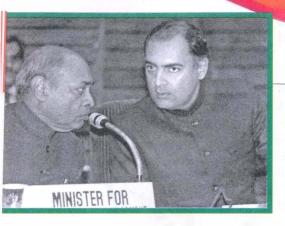


Narasimha Rao



Economic Reforms

The measures taken by the government of P.V. Narasimha Rao when he was Prime Minister were very effective in turning the economy around. As a result, he was often referred to as 'The Father of Economic Reform.'



Narasimha Rao and Rajiv Gandhi

Why was Narasimha Rao's tenure beneficial to India's economic growth?

The economic reforms initiated by Narasimha Rao's government were different from those of earlier governments. With Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister, India moved into an

We have to lift up the value of our money...

era of globalisation and economic liberalisation.

Earlier governments had believed in controlling the market, which had resulted in a slow growth.

policies The new triggered improvements the economic in condition, and today, India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world with average yearly growth rate of around six to seven percent. Foreign direct investment was encouraged bv increasing the maximum limit on share of foreign capital and this catalysed India's economic growth.

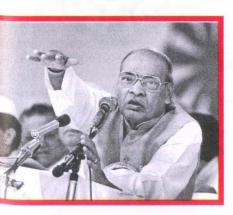
In short, Narasimha Rao's economic policies proved to be a 'good turning point' for the economy.



Master of Languages

Narasimha Rao was a man of many talents, and a great scholar. But, what was most impressive about him was that he spoke 17 languages!

• Dev Nath



Narasimha Rao

What were Narasimha Rao's policies regarding national security and foreign relationships?

Narasimha Rao's government increased military spending, and placed importance on nuclear security and the ballistic missiles programme.

He took a tough stand against terrorists- in fact, terrorism in Punjab was put to an end during his tenure. He improved diplomatic relations with Western Europe, the USA, China, Israel, and Iran.

Narasimha Rao was not at all a novice as far as foreign policy was concerned. He had worked as Foreign Affairs Minister under both Indira and Raiiv Gandhi. When he became the Minister, Narasimha Prime Rao brought India closer to ASEAN, or Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and initiated 'Look East' policy where India balanced its traditional orientation towards Europe and America, with the closer ties with the rising nations of Southeast Asia.



Narasimha Rao

Why was Narasimha Rao considered to be a uniquely talented man?

Narasimha Rao could speak fluently in more than a dozen languages, and was deeply interested in Indian literature.

He translated the great Telugu literary work 'Veyipadagalu' of Kavi Samraat Viswanatha Satyanarayana into Hindi, and Hari Narayan Apte's Marathi novel 'Pan Lakshat Kon Gheto' into Telugu. His knowledge of Sanskrit was profound, and he was a very prolific reader and speaker of Marathi. Later on, his experiences in politics formed the plot of 'The Insider', a book he published after his retirement.



The Insider

'The Insider' written by P. V. Narasimha Rao, is a semi-autobiographical novel set against the contemporary political situation in India.

Radha Nair

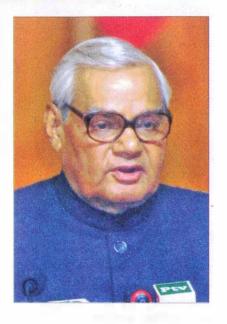
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Why is Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure as the Prime Minister important?

When the Janata Government collapsed, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, restarted the Jana Sangh as the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980. He briefly held the post of prime minister in 1996, when the BJP took the most number of seats in parliament.

Since no party held a majority, the BJP was given the first shot at establishing a new government. In order to gain power, the BJP would have to form a coalition with other parties.

However, his government was brought down in just thirteen days. Early in 1998, India held elections once again. No party emerged with a clear majority, but the BJP roused enough support to lead a coalition government, and once again, Vajpayee was named prime minister. This time, after taking the oath, he won a vote of confidence from



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A.B. Vajpayee

parliament and maintained his position. In May 1998, nuclear weapon tests ordered by Vajpayee stunned the world.

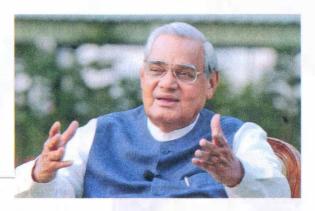
In 2000 his government extensive began an programme of divestment of public funds from several key state-run industries. Under his leadership, India achieved steady economic growth, and became a world leader information in technology. 2004. his ln coalition was defeated in parliamentary elections, and he resigned from office.



One India!

Some politicians represent the same constituency election after election.
Narasimha Rao on the contrary, was elected from different parts of India during different elections, including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.





A. B. Vajpayee

What do we know about Vajpayee's early life?

multi-faceted political personality, Vajpayee was born on December 25th, 1924 at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

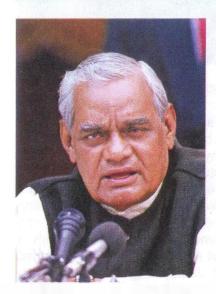
During his student days, he joined the Quit India Movement of 1942. As student, he developed a keen interest in foreign affairs. For a while, Vajpayee studied law, but later he chose to become a journalist. His journalist's career was cut short in 1951 when he joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. As a foundermember of the Jana Sangh, and later BJP he served as the party's president for the first five years, laying the foundation for the party's awesome growth.

As a parliamentarian, Vajpayee has the distinction of being elected to the Lok Sabha nine times, and to the Rajya Sabha twice. He is the only parliamentarian to have been elected from four different states at different times.



Padma Vibhushan

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded the Padma Vibhushan. The honour was conferred on him in 1992.



A.B. Vajpayee

When did Atal Bihari Vajpayee enter politics?

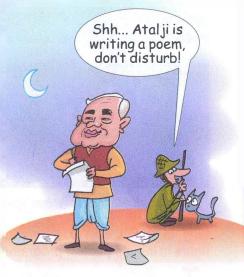
Atal Bihari Vajpayee participated in India's struggle for freedom. In 1942, his political journey began when he was jailed during the Quit India Movement. In 1951, he joined the newly formed Bharatiya Jana Sangh, and in 1957, he won his first election to the Lok Sabha from Balrampur. Later, he became the national president of the Jana Sangh in 1968. Under his leadership, the party rose to national prominence.

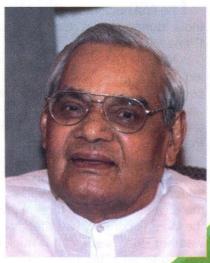
In 1977, the Jana Sangh became a part of the Janata Party, which went on to win the general elections held that year. Vajpayee became the Minister of External Affairs in Prime Minister Morarji Desai's cabinet. However, along with many other leaders, he broke away in 1980, to form the Bharatiya Janata Party or BJP. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first President of the BJP- and later, he went on to become the Prime Minister of India.

What is the role played by Atal Bihari Vajpayee in India after Independence?

Atal Bihari Vajpayee remains the first genuine leader of the opposition and the first truly non-Congress Prime Minister. His government ushered in the stabilisation of the new economy.

enhanced Vajpayee national self-respect through the Pokhran-II tests. government ensured good quality of life, and gave top priority to technological advancement. Sectors like telecommunications. civil aviation, banking, insurance, public sector enterprises. foreign trade and investment. direct and indirect taxes, agricultural produce marketing, smallscale industries reservation, urban land ceilings, highways. rural roads. elementary education, ports, electricity, petroleum prices and interest rates were all subject to far-reaching reforms.





A.B. Vajpayee



Vajpayee and K. R. Narayanan along with Clinton and his Daughter.

Why is Atal Bihari Vajpayee an iconic figure in India's nuclear programme?

The first nuclear test was conducted by India during Indira Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister.

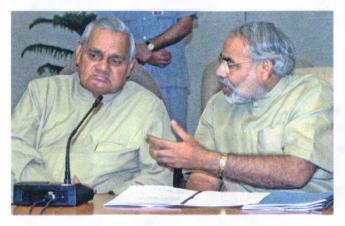
In May 1998, soon after the government led by Vajpayee came to power, India conducted its second nuclear test. It was called Pokhran II, and consisted of five underground nuclear explosions in the Pokhran desert of Rajasthan.

Many nations condemned the tests, and stopped co-operating with India. India, under Vajpayee, stood strong. Though there was a decline in foreign investment, the Indian economy was steady enough to weather the crisis. The nuclear tests, proved to be a big boost not only to the programme itself, but to India's pride as well.



Meals Ready!

A new initiative was launched by the Vajpayee government in 2001. It was a programme that included the introduction and improvement of mid-day meals in schools all over India.



Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi

Why has Vajpayee's government been credited with improving relations with Pakistan?

Atal Bihari Vajpayee took several steps to improve relations with Pakistan. The first was the historic inauguration of the Delhi-Lahore bus service in February 1999. In its inaugural run, the VIP passengers included the Indian Prime Minister himself. He went to attend a summit in Lahore, and was received by his Pakistani counterpart.

The Lahore Summit marked a milestone in Indo-Pak relations. It also eased the tension created by the nuclear tests that both countries had earlier carried out, not only within the two nations, but also in South Asia. Even after the Kargil war, Vajpayee continued to extend the hand of friendship to Pakistan. He invited Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to Delhi and Agra. Unfortunately, this summit did not enjoy the success of the earlier one.



Indian Soldiers Hoist the National Flag and Show the Victory Sign.



Why is the Kargil War considered to be an unforgettable chapter in Indian history?

The Kargil conflict marked a very crucial point in India's history.

It took place between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir, when militants and Pakistani soldiers infiltrated into the Kashmir Valley.

The Indian Army, supported by the Indian Air Force, attacked the Pakistani positions and, with international diplomatic support, eventually forced a Pakistani withdrawal across the Line of Control.

The conflict led to heightened tensions between the two nations. In Pakistan, the aftermath caused instability to the government and the economy.

In India however, the victory at Kargil greatly enhanced Vajpayee's reputation as a strong leader.



Jai Hindi

When Atal Bihari Vajpayee delivered a speech in the UN General Assembly he did not speak in English as former prime ministers of India had done. He spoke in Hindi.



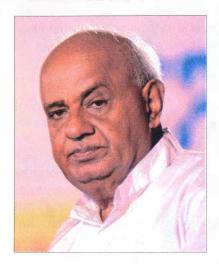
Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Vajpayee

What were the major economic reforms of the Vajpayee Government?

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's economic reforms demonstrated his commitment to make India strong and self reliant. He was pro-business, and promoted competitiveness, extra funding and support for the information technology sector and high-tech industries.

Importance was given to improvements in infrastructure and deregulation of trade, and this in turn, increased foreign capital investment and resulted in an economic expansion. The economy was also helped along by good harvests. Vajpavee's pet projects were the National Highway **Development Project** and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Contrary to what critics said. these reforms yielded handsome results. In the last fiscal year of Vajpayee's rule. 2003-2004, growth shifted to above eight percent, and remained there for almost a decade.

H. D. DEVE GOWDA



What do we know about Deve Gowda's early life?

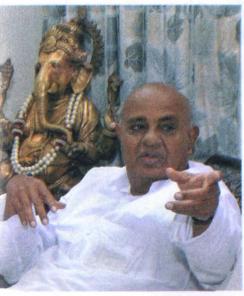
Deve Gowda was the twelfth Prime Minister of India and was also the fourteenth Chief Minister of Karnataka.

He comes from an agricultural background, and is proud of being referred to as a 'Son of the Soil'. completing his education at the age of twenty, Gowda got into politics. In 1953, Deve Gowda joined the Indian National Congress Party. He was elected from the Holenarsipur constituency for three consecutive terms, and also served as the 'Leader of the Opposition' in the Legislative Assembly.

In 1975, he was imprisoned for eighteen months when he opposed the Emergency in the country declared by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The time that he spent in jail helped a lot in shaping his personality, and in changing his viewpoints.

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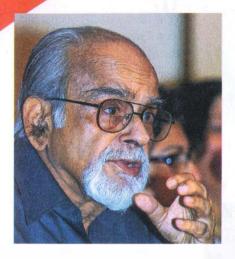
H.D. Deve Gowda

How did Deve Gowda become Prime Minister?

When just 28 years old, Deve Gowda contested the Karnataka elections and became a member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1962. After the Emergency, he was elected to Parliament from Hassan. Deve Gowda was the driving force behind the Janata Dal's rise to power in the state of Karnataka. He was elected as the leader of the Janata Dal Legislative Party and on December 11th, 1994, he assumed office as the 14th Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The 1996 parliamentary elections in India did not give a majority to any single political party. So, a group of diverse political parties-including the Janata Dal-put together a coalition called the United Front, and formed the government. Deve Gowda resigned as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on May 30th, 1996 to be sworn in as the 12th Prime Minister of India.

I.K. GUJRAL



How long was I.K. Gujral the Prime Minister?

.K. Gujral was Prime Minister of India for less than a year – from April 1997 to March 1998. In 1980s,

Gujral left the Congress Party, and joined the Janata Dal. He became the Minister of External Affairs from 1989-1990 during the tenure of V.P. Singh, and again in 1996, he became the Minister of External Affairs when H.D. Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister.

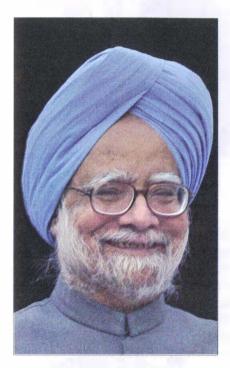
When the Congress Party withdrew its support of the Deve Gowda government. the United Front elected Guiral as their new leader. Congress Later. the withdrew its support, and Guiral was forced to resign. The President dissolved the Lok Sabha, and elections were held. Guiral was not nominated for the elections. He died on 30th November 2012.



Gujral Doctrine

I.K. Gujral is the architect of the Gujral
Doctrine which has a set of five principles
directing the conduct of foreign relationships
with neighbouring countries of India. This
doctrine earned Gujral great respect and
honour from leaders all around the globe.

MANMOHAN SINGH



Why is Manmohan Singh's tenure as Prime Minister significant?

Dr. Manmohan Singh, the 14th Prime Minister of India, was the first Sikh to hold this office. He also has the distinction of being the first prime minister since Jawaharlal Nehru to be re-elected without a break. after completing a full five-year term. He was- and is- respected for his academic brilliance and quiet, down to earth personality. For most of its modern history since independence, India followed a socialist economy with strict government control and regulation of the economy. It was Dr. Manmohan Singh who was responsible- first as the Finance Minister, and then as the Prime Ministerfor the switchover to more free trade and less of governmental control, and this proved to be a big boost to the Indian economy.

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How did Manmohan Singh come to power?

n the 2004 general elections, the Congress Party, which won the most seats, formed the United Progressive Alliance with its allies, and staked a claim to form the government.

Everyone had assumed that Sonia Gandhi would be the candidate for Prime Ministership, but she nominated Dr. Manmohan Singhinstead. He had earlier held key posts such as an advisor to the Foreign Trade Ministry, Chief Economic Advisor of Government of India. Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and Head of the **Planning** Commission.

In 1991, P.V. Narasimha Rao, appointed him as the Finance Minister. He was also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha during Atal Behari Vajpayee's tenure. Dr. Manmohan Singh took oath as the Prime Minister of India on 22nd May 2004.



Governor

Among the many key positions held by Manmohan Singh was that of Governor of the Reserve Bank. He held the post from 1982 to 1985.

Sneha Rao



Manmohan Singh



Manmohan Singh

Why was Manmohan Singh a remarkable Finance Minister?

As Finance Minister in Narasimha Rao's government, Manmohan Singh was the man who ushered in the reforms that liberalized India's economy, changing the fundamental way in which corporate India thinks.

By doing so, he also changed the lives of millions of middle class Indians. In 1991, when Singh became the Finance Minister, India's economy was in shambles. Singh started the process of simplification and rationalisation of the tax system. Many controls and regulations on industry were removed, which meant the death of the Permit Raj, and giving a free rein to entrepreneurs. The result was that productivity in Indian industry grew like never before. Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister is considered to be the 'mentor of India's economic reforms'.

Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama

What were the major economic policies of Manmohan Singh's government?

celebrated economist, Manmohan Singh entered politics at the height of the 1991 economic crisis when late Prime Minister Narasimha Rao inducted him into the government as Finance Minister.

Together, they lifted the economy out of the balance of payments crisis, and then paved the for economic reforms. Taking over as Prime Minister from the NDA government, his governments also delivered a robust 8.5 percent GDP growth for most of his tenure. The government continued the highway modernisation programme that



was initiated by Vajpayee's government, reformed the banking and financial sectors, as well as public sector companies, and implemented many projects for relieving farmers from their debt.

In 2005, Manmohan Singh introduced the value added tax, which replaced the sales tax. As a result of all these reforms, in 2007, India achieved its highest GDP growth rate of 9 percent, and became the second fastest growing major economy in the world.

What were the major domestic policies of Manmohan Singh's government?

During Manmohan Singh's tenure, India enjoyed a steady growth rate.

The government introduced the scheme known National Rural as the Employment Guarantee Act or NREGA, guaranteeing employment of 100 days in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. The RTI or the Right to Information Act came into being in 2005. It covers the entire country except Jammu and Kashmir, and ushered in a new era of right to information and transparency in governance.

The Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act of 2005 is meant to provide protection to the wife or female live-in partner from domestic violence at the hands of the husband or male live-in partner-or his relatives. The law also extends its protection to women who are sisters, widows, or mothers. In addition, Manmohan Singh's government has been instrumental in strengthening antiterrorism laws.



Manmohan Singh Receiving an Honorary Doctorate

QUICK LOOK





Jawaharlal Nehru (15 August 1947 - 27 May 1964)





V.P. Singh (2 December 1989 - 10 November 1990)

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Gulzari Lal Nanda (Acting) (27 May 1964 - 9 June 1964, 11 January 1966 - 24 January 1966)





Chandra Shekhar (10 November 1990 - 21 June 1991)

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Lal Bahadur Shastri (9 June 1964 - 11 January 1966)



P.V. Narasimha Rao (21 June 1991 - 16 May 1996)

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Indira Gandhi

(24 January 1966 - 24 March 1977, 14 January 1980 - 31 October 1984)



Atal Bihari Vajpayee (16 May 1996 - 1 June 1996

(16 May 1996 - 1 June 1996, 19 March 1998 - 22 May 2004, in two consecutive tenures)

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Morarji Desai

(24 March 1977 - 28 July 1979)





H.D. Deve Gowda

(1 June 1996 - 21 April 1997)

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Chaudhary Charan Singh

(28 July 1979 - 14 January 1980)

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I.K. Gujral

(21 April 1997 - 18 March 1998)

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Rajiv Gandhi

(31 October 1984 - 1 December 1989)

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Dr. Manmohan Singh

(22 May 2004 - 26 May 2014)

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Narendra Modi

(26 May 2014-Till date)

Clarifications & Corrections

Divya K. S. from Trichy, Tamil Nadu points out a mistake in the June issue of Tell Me Why, Great Thinkers, on page 85. She points out that Adi Shankara was born in 8th century AD, not in 8th century BC.

Rashmi Jayakar from Udupi, Priyadarshini from Singapore and Akhilesh (by email), have pointed out an error in the July issue, Nanotechnology. It has been wrongly mentioned on page 4, that 1 millimetre= 0.000001 nanometre. In fact, 1 millimetre equals 1000000 nanometre.

We regret the mistakes.
- Editor



1. Ruma Bathula

Flat No F-2, Balaji Residence, Bakaram 7 Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

2. Sunil Kumar Sharma

A/29 Adarsh Vihar Colony, Rukapura Bailey Road, P.O-B.V. College, Patna, Bihar. Winners of the GK Contest - 13, Games - held in the June issue of Tell Me Why.

3. Shuchi Shastri

National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara, Gujarat.

4. Vaishnav Srivastava

Class - IV B, Hill Top School, Telco Colony, Jamshedpur.

5. Shilpa Menon

Kottarathil, Koipalli Karaima, Mavelikara, Alappuzha.

GK Contest-13 GAMES - ANSWERS

1. Basketball

2. Hockey

3. Volleyball

4. Football

5. Cricket

6. Tennis







Here's a contest for our readers. Identify the FREEDOM FIGHTERS, from the photos given here.

All you need to do is send us an email naming each one with the proper number.

(PLEASE GIVE YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS ALSO IN THE E-MAIL) You are also welcome to send your answers by post.

Five winners will be awarded prizes. In case there are more than five correct entries, the winners will be chosen by lot.

Last Date to receive entries:

2014 AUGUST 25

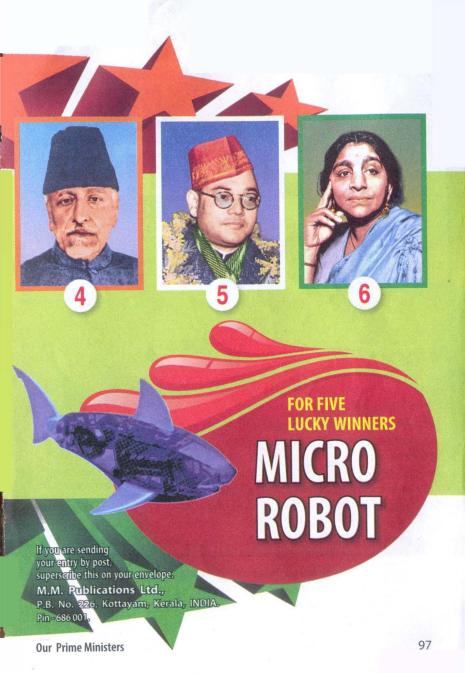
Our e-mail address: childrensdivision@mmp.in

Please enter

TMW - GK CONTEST - 15

in the subject line of your email.





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Editor: Ammu Mathew

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